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from the cuticula. This is of course a great advantage in cutting sections. The presence of a hard cuticula is often a serious difficulty in sectioning the eyes of Arthropods. This difficulty can be diminished somewhat by the use of the hardest paraffine, and by placing the broad surface of the cuticula at right angles to the edge of the knife when sectioning. Ribbon sections cannot be made with very hard paraffine, but it is often necessary to sacrifice this advantage in order to obtain very good sections.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

—Over a year ago the announcement was made that a human skull was found near Worcester, Mass., in such a position with regard to the bones of a mastodon as to indicate that they were contemporaneous. Regarding the authenticity of the mastodon bones there was no doubt, but certain facts seemed to indicate that the human skull was a “plant,” but one which was rather skilfully performed. It is now announced that those in Worcester who have been investigating the affair are convinced that the skull was placed where it was found by some one who had a slight knowledge of archæology. As absolute proof is as yet lacking, no names are mentioned, but circumstances point strongly towards a person who is believed to be capable of such a fraud.

—Prof. Herbert W. Conn, of Wesleyan University, will have charge of the biological instruction at the summer school at Martha's Vineyard during the present season.

—*Random Notes on Natural History*, a small monthly magazine started in 1884 by Southwick & Jencks, of Providence, R. I., has been discontinued. The three volumes published contain many notes on the natural history of Rhode Island.

—The announcement has already been made in these pages that early in the present year Ginn & Co., of Boston, were to start a *Journal of Morphology*, under the editorial charge of Dr. C. O. Whitman. We recur to the subject to say that the first number will be issued some time during the present month, and to call the attention of all persons interested in the anatomy, histology, or development of animals and plants to the claims of this journal. It will be the endeavor to make it the equal and the representative in America of such periodicals in Europe as the *Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Zoologie* and the English *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science*. The name of the editor is a guarantee that the contents will be of the highest character. The plates will be fully equal to those of the best of the foreign journals. Such a journal has long been a desideratum, and it is the duty of every American student to support it.

The subscription price for the present has been fixed at six dollars per annum.

—Dr. A. T. Bruce, one of the more promising of the younger American zoologists, died at Cairo, Egypt, February 11, 1887. He was a graduate and for a while an assistant at Princeton College, and then pursued post-graduate studies at Johns Hopkins University, where he received the degree of Ph.D. His health had become impaired by overwork, and at the time of his death he was on his way to Japan. He died of local fever, which his constitution was not strong enough to resist. One of his former instructors writes, "It is a great loss to me; he was always a charming fellow." He had published only preliminary results of his studies, which were chiefly in the line of the development of Arthropods,—spiders, Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, and, with Dr. Brooks, Limulus.

—The announcement is made that those desiring aid for scientific research from the Elizabeth Thompson fund should make early application to the secretary of the trustees of the fund, Dr. C. S. Minot, Harvard Medical College, Boston, Mass. All applications should state clearly the amount wanted, the purpose for which wanted, and other details, to aid the committee in making their awards. The awards will probably be made in May.

—S. H. Vines, the eminent English botanist, has been given the degree of D.Sc. by the University of Cambridge, England.

—The Academy of Sciences of Berlin has recently made its awards for the furtherance of science, among which may be noted three hundred and seventy-five dollars to Karl Brandt to continue his studies of the Radiolaria, two hundred and fifty dollars to Dr. Ludwig in furtherance of his Echinoderm investigations, and nine thousand dollars in aid of various scientific publications, most prominent of which are Dohrn's "Zoologisches Jahresbericht" and Dr. Taschenberg's "Bibliothek."

—In a recent number of the *Natural History Transactions* of the Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle-on-Tyne Societies occur twenty letters from the late Charles Darwin to Albany Hancock relating to the barnacles. They are interesting reading, especially since they display the caution with which Mr. Darwin worked.

—For five years the Women's Education Society of Boston has supported the Marine Laboratory at Annisquam, of which frequent mention has been made in these pages. Recently a meeting was held in Boston, at which the further continuance of the laboratory was discussed. Remarks were made by and letters read from those who were acquainted with the work done, and it was the general sense of the meeting that the laboratory

be placed on a permanent footing, with paid assistants and every facility for elementary instruction, as well as original investigation. A board of directors was elected and various committees appointed to take action as to finances, location, and other matters.

—Dr. J. W. Fewkes has been in California during the present winter, engaged in studying the Medusæ of the Pacific.

—Dr. J. S. Kingsley, of Malden, Mass., will have a small laboratory for original biological research at Salem, Mass., during July and August of the present year.

—The *American Monthly Journal of Microscopy* has greatly changed its typographical appearance with the present volume. Under the editorship of Professor H. L. Osborn it is becoming more scientific and valuable.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

New York Academy of Sciences.—March 14.—Prof. W. P. Trowbridge presented notes upon the "Laws of Fatigue and Rest in Animal Mechanics, as applied to Boat-Racing."

March 28.—The following paper was announced: "The Fauna and Flora of the Trias of New Jersey and the Connecticut Valley" (illustrated with specimens and drawings), by Dr. J. S. Newberry.

Biological Society of Washington.—March 19.—Communications: Mr. L. O. Howard, "A Rock Creek Philanthropist;" Mr. Charles Hallock, "Trans-Continental Thoroughfare of the Moose," with some description of its habits; Dr. Tarleton H. Bean, "American and European Work in Deep-Sea Ichthyology;" Mr. F. A. Lucas, "The Occurrence of Lepidoptera at Sea;" Capt. Joseph W. Collins, "Some Novel Facts in the Natural History of the Codfish;" Dr. C. Hart Merriam, "Contributions to North American Mammalogy—Description of a New Mouse from New Mexico."

April 2.—Communications: Dr. Theobald Smith, "Quantitative Variations in the Germ Life of Potomac Water during the Year 1886;" Dr. Edward Eggleston, "Queries concerning Certain Plants and Animals known to the earliest Colonists of North America;" Prof. Otis T. Mason, "Representations of Animal Forms in Eskimo Art;" Mr. F. W. True, "The Blackfish of our Southern Waters;" Dr. H. G. Beyer, "The Action of Caffeine on the Kidneys."

Boston Society of Natural History.—March 16.—Professor W. M. Davis spoke of the value of classification as a guide in geo-